

Proclamation 5835 of June 24, 1988

# **50th Anniversary of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, 1988**

*By the President of the United States of America*

*A Proclamation*

We can all be grateful that during the past 50 years a special effort has made more employment opportunities available to blind and other severely disabled Americans. The Wagner-O'Day Act, which became law on June 25, 1938, directed Federal agencies to purchase products from sheltered workshops staffed by blind Americans. In 1971, amendments proposed by Senator Javits extended this program by including workshops employing those with severe disabilities and by expanding the role of the Committee for Purchase from the Blind and Other Severely Handicapped in the administration of the program.

Today, more than 16,000 blind and other severely disabled people work in nearly 350 facilities under this program. From a modest beginning, when traditional products such as mops and brooms were produced, the program has grown to include a broad range of sophisticated goods and services.

Under this law, now known as the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, countless blind and other severely disabled Americans have received training and employment and have developed and displayed the skills and abilities to take competitive jobs outside sheltered settings and to reach their full potential and independence. Our Nation benefits from such contributions, and the Federal government benefits from the program because fine products and services are provided at fair market prices. Achievements under the program have been many, but we must continue our efforts to hire and train the majority of disabled people of working age who have not yet become employed.

We should all appreciate the wisdom and dedication of Senators Jacob Javits and Robert Wagner and of Congresswoman Caroline O'Day, by whose names this Act is known. We should also commend the efforts of the Committee for Purchase from the Blind and Other Severely Handicapped, the National Industries for the Blind, and the National Industries for the Severely Handicapped, whose goals are making the wisdom of the Act a reality.

The Congress, by Senate Concurrent Resolution 121, has requested the President to issue a proclamation commemorating June 25, 1988, as the 50th Anniversary of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act on June 25, 1988. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities designed to reaffirm the Act's historical objectives of providing employment opportunities to blind and other severely handicapped Americans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and

eighty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twelfth.

RONALD REAGAN

**Proclamation 5836 of June 28, 1988**

**Withdrawal of Nondiscriminatory Treatment for Products of Romania**

*By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation*

1. Pursuant to section 402(c) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended ("the Act") (19 U.S.C. 2432(c)), I previously waived the requirements of sections 402(a) and (b) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2432 (a) and (b)) with respect to the Socialist Republic of Romania ("Romania"). As a result, articles the product of Romania imported into the United States were eligible for nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation status). Romania also was eligible to participate in programs of the U.S. Government that extend credits, credit guarantees, or investment guarantees. Pursuant to section 404(a) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2434(a)), I extended most-favored-nation status to Romania under the terms of a commercial agreement that entered into force on August 3, 1975, and was entered into under the authority of section 405 of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2435), with such status contingent upon the annual renewal of a waiver pursuant to section 402(c) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2432(c)).

2. The Government of Romania has announced that it has decided to renounce the renewal of nondiscriminatory treatment accorded to the products of Romania by the United States subject to the terms of section 402 of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2432).

3. Accordingly, I have decided to allow the waiver for Romania under section 402 of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2432) to expire as scheduled at the close of July 2, 1988, without renewal at that time, and I have so reported to the Congress. Therefore, effective July 3, 1988, all articles the product of Romania that are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, into the customs territory of the United States shall be subject to the customs duties set forth in the Rates of Duty column 2 of the Tariff Schedules of the United States (TSUS) (19 U.S.C. 1202). Furthermore, effective as of that date, Romania shall no longer be eligible to receive credits or guarantees under any program of the U.S. Government that extends credits, credit guarantees, or investment guarantees, including the Commodity Credit Corporation and the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

4. Section 404(c) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2434(c)) authorizes the President to suspend or withdraw any extension of nondiscriminatory treatment to any country pursuant to section 404(a) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2434(a)).

5. Section 604 of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the TSUS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, of other acts affecting import treatment, and of actions taken thereunder.